

The Point

Issue 7

Fitchburg State College

Week of Nov 3, 1999

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hits home

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Interlibrary loan supplies a world of information

by Anthony Sciabarrasi

For students, going to the library to do research can be a frustrating experience. Although our library here at Fitchburg State College is well stocked, there will be times when looking for the right book or periodical will seem futile.

Located on the second floor, hidden away in a small corner office, is the Interlibrary Loan Department. This little-known asset brings a worldwide network of libraries to your fingertips. Mary Leger, interlibrary loan coordinator, processes student and faculty requests for materials that are not locally available. She can be considered our own literary detective.

Working through the Online



With the help of the Interlibrary Loan Department, students learn that research does not have to be a daunting task.

Computer Library Center network, she can access, borrow and send just about any available published material. "This service has always been a library function," Leger said. "But now, with the

help of electronic technology, books, periodicals, microfilm ... can be located and borrowed through the system." This service can be invaluable to anyone researching a paper, writing for publication or setting up course material.

Access to this worldwide network is as easy as filling out a request form. These forms are available from the front desk or the loan office of the library. Once the completed form is processed, Leger and her staff of work-study students do the rest. First, any material available at FSC is found and stocked, or in some cases photocopied. If not locally available, the request is then processed into the OCLC network.

Library,
continued on page 2

Required text? Some students just don't buy it

by Anothey Falvey

I do not buy books, because I believe in the following scenario: A typical student will pay over \$200 for textbooks in a given semester. Then, when it comes to "cashing the books in," that same student will be lucky to walk away with \$25.

Why does this happen?

Well- most of us have heard the specific reasons for this. Our new, over-priced books quickly become "replaced." **OPINION** with new editions (which have been produced during the semester!) with slightly more information. This new information (sometimes only equaling about a paragraph of so of "the latest news"), leads to the worthlessness of, let's say, your biology text, for which you may have paid \$85 new!

Yes, there are circumstances when we get cash back, even on "used books." But once again, there is no justice to paying \$35 for a "used" text when you receive \$5 in return.

So, what can we do about this? I know what I am doing- I am certainly not buying. But students continue to buy. A majority of students buy books because their instructors tell them to do

so. And then, the text does not even have to be opened at all during a semester, because all the instructor's tests were based on the notes given in class! I know that this specific example of unused books may appear to be atypical- but it is fact.

Any college official or guidance counselor who truly supports students should just ask students if they truly use all their textbooks. Some students may be honest and remark that they may only use two out of the five over-priced textbooks.

This is a college phenomenon, that I believe is truly unjust. Students are not exactly wealthy people; most do not have tons of "petty cash." So why do some instructors make it a "cardinal sin" if a student fails to purchase an insanely priced text?



I am not trying to start a rebellion that would lead to students not purchasing books! Nor would I even attempt to carry through with that.

What I do want to address is that sometimes students should be informed that it is not a MUST to purchase a text for a certain instructor's class. If our instructors really do want us all to succeed, our instructors could perhaps give students opportunities to borrow extra texts. (Extra texts are supposed to be available for students who truly cannot

Books,
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Interlibrary loan comes to the rescue

continued from cover

Although this includes libraries worldwide, Leger has some favorites that offer a greater range of services: the libraries at Harvard University, Dartmouth, and UCLA, for example, as well as the British Library. The requested material is located and then shipped to FSC, usually within seven to 10 days.

Leger can locate rare, specialty collections and concentrated material many people would not even know existed.

"My biggest patrons are nursing students, those studying the sciences and faculty research for course preparation and publication," Leger said. "Approximately 60 percent of loans are

books and 40 percent photocopies from periodicals." As part of the OCLC system, the FSC Interlibrary Loan Department filled over 2,000 requests and has loaned out about 4,000 pieces of material to other network members, according to 1998 statistics.

This small but very busy service is a valuable resource for all FSC students, faculty and staff.

So if you are looking for that hard-to-find passage or rare subject material, the interlibrary loan office is the place to go. From foreign-language material to custom specialty searches, Leger has the experience and know-how to access the right resources to help you find just what you are looking for.

Celtics,

continued from back cover

talent around them to make a serious dent.

Washington seemed to have everything except a center, but picking up Ike Austin may have solved that problem. Did I mention they drafted, the forever smooth, Richard Hamilton, from the NCAA champion Huskies, or that they also pick-up rebounding machine

Michael Smith?

The top three teams from last season, Orlando, Miami, and New York, all seem to be worse then last year, and only Washington and the Celtics appear stronger on paper. The question is have the Celts improved enough to over take the other teams?

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Students get a kick out of Tae-Bo

by Anthony Falvey

Tae-Bo - the combination of karate, boxing and aerobic dance that found fame in Los Angeles - is gaining enthusiastic support here in the Bay State. Among the local Tae-Bo enthusiasts is Laura Fallon, a Fitchburg State College junior who is eager to spread the word about the fast-paced exercise program.

The Tae-Bo workout videos have become a cultural phenomenon. They feature Billy Blanks, who developed the program in the basement of his home in 1976 and soon began offering classes in it.

Eventually moving from the East Coast to the West Coast, Blanks opened a studio not far from his home in Los Angeles and finally developed the workout videos. Through the popularity of Tae-Bo classes and videos, Blanks has found fame and fortune.

He has also found a loyal following that includes Fallon, who was a cheerleader at her hometown high school in Maynard when she first heard of Tae-Bo. Her cheerleading coach had chosen Blanks' exercise program as a way to

further motivate the squad.

"Tae-Bo was only something I had heard of ... I certainly did not think I was going to try it, let alone become addicted to it," Fallon said.

By the end of her senior year in high school, Fallon was so inspired by Tae-Bo that she offered to help her local YMCA develop a program to introduce it to the community. Concerns about licensing and other legal issues kept that idea from getting off the ground, but Fallon still has her videos.

Now every Saturday night is Tae-Bo night at Fallon's apartment, where she is joined by her friends for a weekly workout.

"The tapes are very easy to follow, and my girlfriends and I, we all just have a great time encouraging each other, making sure we're all getting a good workout," Fallon said.

According to Fallon her friends agree that Tae-Bo promotes self-confidence and physical strength, as well as a great feeling of accomplishment. "I personally believe Tae-Bo is a great exercise entity. I would recommend it to anyone," Fallon said.

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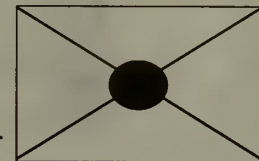
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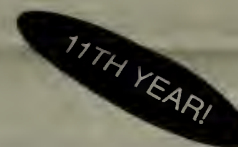
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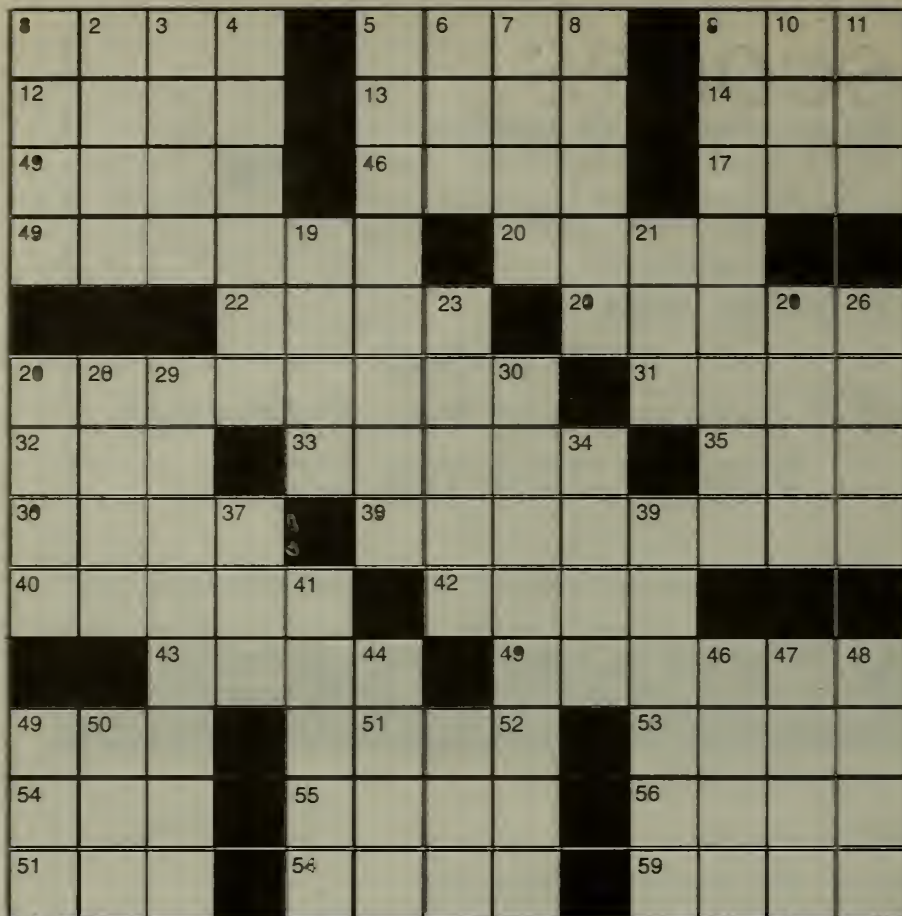
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13. Price
14. Shad___
15. Completed
16. Object of worship
17. Aardvark's prey
18. Cease
20. Skirt Length
22. Impersonator
24. Pop-singer Lauper
27. Announced
31. Achieve
32. Play it by ___
33. Develop
35. Destroy the interior of
36. Confused
38. Second self
40. Darling
42. Slangy assent

DOWN

43. Athletic side
45. Flinch
49. Type of antelope
51. Bird's home
53. Zilch
54. Rowboat's propeller
55. Leg hinge
56. October's gem
57. Unclose, poetically
58. Took legal action against
59. Embroiders

ACROSS

10. Charged particle
11. Gain
19. Ship pole
21. Coloring
23. Answer
25. Medicine
26. Hooked on
27. ___ Sea Scrolls
28. Slacken
29. Beast
30. Sensed
34. Approached
37. "We ___ the World"
39. Horned animal, for short
41. Pulls
44. Restaurant list
46. Informal negative
47. Chew
48. Slippery fish
49. Thick and sticky substance
50. Brief rest
52. Realize

Solution is on page 12



Snorkin hits the "bankrupt" space on Wheel of Fortune.

The Point

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All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Point* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

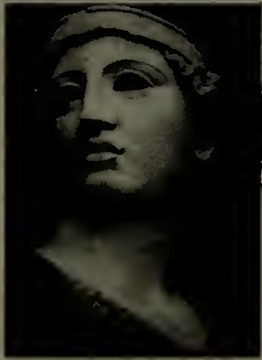
Just wondering if anyone reads this? First

one to find this line wins five dollars! : p
Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the *Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Horror-scopes



Unfortunately, Cassandra was forced to return to her homeland when U.S. Immigration officials raided The Point office recently. Since no single astrologer could replace Cassandra, her column will be written by a new guest astrologer each week. The inspiration for this week's forecast was provided by TSgt. Trevor Shank, a retired Navy SEAL. TSgt. Shank dabbled a little in the occult in Granada but is hoping that the college students at FSC follow their own higher power.

We hope the new format will continue to serve the needs of students who depend on these horoscopes to help them run their academic and social lives. And to those of you who are dependent on these horoscopes, we would like to ask: "What are you thinking?"

AnneMarie Donahue
editor-in-chief



Capricorn Neptune is going to make you a wild party-seeker this month, but do not let this go to your head. You will be tempted by Pluto to procrastinate at work around the 29th. Getting the job done is what it is all about you weak, pathetic waste! Work harder and you will see the results of discipline! While out you will meet an attractive person, but beware: This is a stuck-up creep in J.Crew clothing! Don't let this idiot get you down! A weak and unstable alliance will come to your attention and you will be tempted to open your heart to this person. Try to get in touch with that person rather than cause a scene of "Why aren't we friends anymore?" Boo hoo hoo!

Aquarius You are on the verge of starting a brave new project and the only thing you lack is the push: Well here it is, soldier! Get going! This is good timing because that promotion that you are so sure you've got locked away in the bag is up for question! Do not rest on your butt, that gives people the chance to run right past you! For those of you who are happily married in the eyes of God and country, a little dirty pillow talk might be fun on the 16th. Those of you who are single should slowly break the ice with that person you've been watching since last semester!

Pisces Mars is in your corner making this a great time to attack - I mean, approach - someone you've been eyeing. Single fish can expect a fun time around the 11th while attached fish might want to spice up the playfulness and give their man something to talk about in the locker room. You are attracted to a person at work, but that is always a bad idea as you are simply too fickle to commit and this will disrupt the work environment. Do not cause damage to your employer! This is a cardinal sin! A stressed-out comrade will seek your support; offer it, as they will offer theirs when you hit this situation.

Aries Saturn is going to force you through a month-long obstacle course, toughen up and take it like a man! Someone else is eyeing that special someone you've been eyeing all along, get ready to duke it out when push comes to shove! Friendship is nothing, victory is everything! On the work front you are a double agent working for friends and enemies, just remember friends are not allies and allies are not friends! On the 5th you are going to be harsh with the words, make sure you can back up this conviction! On the second of November you are going to be urged to spill top-secret information, do not violate this oath! Keep your mouth shut, soldier!

Taurus Your ruling planet, Saturn, is going to urge you to drop some dead weight and end a friendship. Feel free to cut that person off, they are only bringing you down and potentially they are bad news. Single bulls will find love soon under the full moon while attached bulls feel the need to procreate, if you get what I mean. Enough with this love talk! If you want that raise you need to march right up to that boss and use your mental powers to convince him/her of this fact! Stay focused toward the end of the month you are going to be in complete disarray if you do not prioritize!

Gemini Evidently you are going to be a little ball of sexual energy, I don't want to hear about this foolishness! If you have a mate do what you desire behind (tightly) closed doors! Single Twins should look for a playmate at work. Mercury will set your emotions on their ears on the 4th so try to remain cool and don't bring out the big guns. Think NATO! Saturn has you organizing your work structure soon enough toward the end of this month so feel free to play hooky with a beau on the 5th.

Cancer Mercury is going to loosen those lips better than truth serum, allowing you to come clean about a surprising secret. I like the Jerry Springer show as much as the next Lt., but keep it calm. We don't need chair throwing in G-Lobby! A life-altering change is heading your way later this month. Perhaps the Army National Guard, who will be back on Nov. 18th? Evidently some asteroid named Pallas is going to strengthen your spirits, I dunno about this crap. However you have a chance for some good old-fashioned fun when friends plan an indoor picnic to brighten a dark mood.

Leo Ah, Leo... The natural born leaders, some of my best men were Leos and they did me, their country and their parents proud... Unfortunately you aren't doing anyone proud! Jupiter has a full month of you making a spectacle of yourself by stealing the scene. You may like it but some others might not, so keep that in mind! A "quicky-cutie" is going to enter your life later this month and you should "snag him up." Your work is going to be looking up on the 4th, but remember to pass on committing if you don't think you can follow thru.

Virgo You are do-or-die this week so play to win! If you are looking for a partner then wait no longer than the 6th, when you accidentally walk into the Olympic team. However, for those of you in a relationship, be careful of getting into an argument about money later in the month (probably around the 21st). Saturn is going to add to the pile of stress, but if you had been better prepared for life through the Army you wouldn't worry about this! Feel free to kiss a little butt on the 30th, it proves to be a short-cut to success.

Libra You are the captain of the ship this time and you are calling all the shots so use this to your advantage to get some things done! If you are looking for love in all the wrong places then you need to let that person know that you are the hard-to-get type around the 5th. Don't be scared of sex talk around the 7th when Pluto inspires you to tell it all to that person of yours. This may result in some pleasureable extra-curricular activities. Toward the end of the month you will feel like a klutz as the quarter moon magnifies your mistakes, take it in stride. Chin up, chest out, MARCH!

Scorpio You are going to enter into a new-look phase of your life as you rediscover some older goodies and find new threads at reasonably low prices. Do not let this get to you, you should always be in the appropriate uniform for school! As you endure the unpleasant nature of an associate around the 23. this cannot be avoided so stand your ground! A potentially long-term relationship walks past you on the 8th, reach out and grab what you want don't wait for it to be handed to you!

Sagittarius You are the FBI this week as Neptune's power has its hold over you. Investigate what has been on your mind lately, this is the week to answer all of those questions. But do it quickly and quietly as your abilities will run out at the end of the week. Single people should get ready to meet an interesting prospect at a party while attached people should keep in touch with their long-distance lovers over the phone on the 17th. Coworkers will make promises of help this week, but at the end of the month they will not deliver. Self-reliance is taught in the corps - enlist now!

Bush: High marks for 'Science'

by Robin E. Sandberg

"They stopped making albums for the public and made an album for themselves."

As I was driving down Route 93 I pressed the scan button on my radio, attempting an escape from Britny Spears, when it stopped on 101.1FM. The song that was playing caught my attention. It had this relaxed but intense sound of guitars, violins and piano. The lyrics were resonating throughout my CRX of: "Whatever you say is all right. Whatever you do is all good". I thought the male voice was beyond sexy and for a moment I thought it was Gavin Rosdale, but it seemed too mellow. To my glee it was a new song from Bush, called "Let the Cable Sleep," from the band's recently released album "The Science of Things."

"The Science of Things" is Bush's third album, following "Sixteen Stone" and "Razorblade Suitcase." "Science" is not the Bush alternative/rock sound that you might be used to. Not that there aren't some in-your-face songs, it's only now there are many other types that may grab you as before.



Bush happens to be one of my favorite bands (hence the fact I bought the new CD at 11 a.m. the very day it came out).

I can understand if you all hesitate on the new Bush album because you may think they sold out or something. Actually, it's completely the opposite. They stopped making albums for the public and made an album for themselves. "Science" not only shows how much they have matured, it also shows the talent they have. Bush is not just a poster band with a hot lead singer (not that he isn't hot). They deserve to get the respect that Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots have acquired. From the looks of "The Science of Things," Bush is not going away, only getting better.



'Bringing Out the Dead'

by AnneMarie Donahue

This bold statement will probably get me back in trouble with the film department, but I have to say it: "Bringing Out the Dead" is better than "Taxi Driver." This movie, starring Nicolas Cage as a burnt-out paramedic, deals with the horror a man faces while on the job, and the slow descent into possible stress induced insanity.

Frank Pierce (Cage) was once called Father Frank for his efforts to save the injured inhabitants of Harlem's Hell's Kitchen. This is a man searching for redemption at every corner, but all he finds are the ghosts of people he failed to save.

Pierce, who can't quit on his own for some reason, has tried thinking up ways to get fired. He has called in sick, come in late, gone out on calls that he knows he can't help.

All the while he is trying to hide

from the visions of the "lost souls" that plague him.

The camera work is wonderful, with quick jerky shots that give the viewer the feeling of urgency mixed with insanity. The juxtaposition of slow and fast-paced scenes seemed to slow down the movie in parts.

Director Martin Scorsese uses brilliant camera angles to put the viewer into Pierce's shoes. The viewer should note the interesting technique that Scorsese incorporated of overexposing the film stock to create an ethereal glow about Cage.

If Cage is truly playing a "savior" figure, then why not make him appear as Christ-like as you can?



'The Story of Us' lacks strength

by AnneMarie Donahue

Remember "War of the Roses?" At least they died in the end!

Rob Reiner usually handles romantic comedies mixed with drama very well, as in "When Harry Met Sally." However, this stream of luck has run dry with the movie "The Story of Us." Granted, there are a few fleeting funny moments, usually provided by Willis, who seems to be reliving his "Moonlighting" days, but the movie is comprised mostly of bickering that makes the viewer nervous. This is definitely NOT the movie to take a date to, especially those of you who are engaged or close to it.

While some critics claim that this was a wonderful acting job by Willis, I would have to disagree and suggest "12 Monkeys," "Pulp Fiction," and "The Sixth Sense" as better roles, in better movies to boot! Pfeiffer simply doesn't deliver and appears to have little chemistry with Willis except when fighting with him.

Also the premise of this movie seems a little odd, in this day and age

who tries to stay together anymore? Most couples have the ability to admit they've made a mistake and for the sake of the children and their own sanity get a divorce.

However, it was a sad commentary that after 15 years together these two simply got tired of making it work. My only question is, "Who wouldn't?" For the past 15 years these two have bickered and fought with each other every step of the way, and it's not the good happy fighting where the couple playfully beat each other with dish rags...

OK, maybe that's just me.

Some scenes had me running to the bathroom or snack bar simply to get away from it. It's like growing up in a dysfunctional home all over again, painfully watching your parents fight all the time. Emotionally disturbing!

The worst part is that this isn't even a decent film! Stay away at all costs!



More than friends...

By Robin E Sandberg

"It's hard not to find solace in a show where the people have more problems than you."

Going on its sixth season, "Friends" is one of the most entertaining shows to grace our television. Currently "Friends" is the No. 1 sitcom and if you have checked out this show you know why.

The show began when six people were thrown together and became the best group of 20-somethings. The first episode introduced the characters Monica, Ross, Rachel, Chandler, Pheobe and Joey; none of whom was doing well when we met them.

Rachel had just crawled out the window on her own marriage. Monica was wandering around helplessly in the dating game. Pheobe had just moved out of Monica's apartment. Chandler and Joey, two guys who couldn't be more different, became roommates. Last but not least, Ross' wife had just left him for another woman.

It's hard not to find solace in a show where the people have more problems than you. Chandler is miserable at his desk job and women seem to think he's a loser.

Joey is struggling to become an actor and can't handle a relationship. Monica desperately wants to get married and have children but all she seems to find are the most disturbed men.

Ross and Rachel go back and forth between the most frustrating relationship of time.

Of course there is Pheobe, who never seems to let anything get to her, maybe because she's stuck in a world of her own.

I began watching "Friends" in the middle of the first season. I thought the writing was amazing and the characters were unique.

This is the first show I've witnessed that could not survive with the loss of any one character. It also helps that you can see they are truly friends on and off the screen. There is a special chemistry between all cast members.

Dedicated fans get immense joy in watching them battle through life and



mature at the same time. They have all come a long way since season one. Monica and Chandler have developed a strong relationship and are moving in together as we speak. Joey and Pheobe have not changed a whole lot, but you can see they are growing up. I think within this season we will see that a major change has occurred in them.

Most important is Ross and Rachel. These two hilarious individuals have been going back and forth with their feelings for each other, feelings that have been undeniable since the first episode. Aside from their year-long relationship, one never likes the other at the same time.

In the last two seasons Rachel has tried to break up Ross' wedding when ironically they got drunk and married at the end of last season. Now it all starts up again.

If you have missed the last few years, you have lost out on a lot. You missed the "leather pants" episode, "Rachel's infected eye" episode, or the infamous "Joey knows that Monica and Chandler are sleeping together" episode.

This episode was especially funny because Joey, burning to tell someone, begins to look perverted as the half hour runs out.

Every decade has one show that has defined it. Some would insist that this decade was defined by "Seinfeld," but I would have to strongly disagree due to the impact these six people have made on television entertainment.

I've noticed that quite a few people either hate or love "Friends" but I've never seen a soul watch it and not laugh..

If you haven't yet checked out this show it's about time you did. We are going on the last couple of seasons of "Friends" and after that, who knows if they will find a sitcom that could ever compare?

Sleepy Hollow is stunning!

by AnneMarie Donahue

It was a moment of dead quiet as the image faded to black and the credits began to roll. Then, all acting as one, the audience began to applaud. The applause rose to cheers, and pretty soon the entire audience was on its feet wildly screaming for the movie to start again.

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" has always been a favorite of mine, excepting of course the hideous Disney version! Washington Irving's tale of love gone wrong, and the undying thirst for revenge, has been once again put to film in Tim Burton's latest opus, "Sleepy Hollow."

Christopher Walken plays our headless horsemen, while Johnny Depp



Sleepy Hollow continued to page 9

'House on Haunted Hill'

by AnneMarie Donahue

"Remember the fun we had when you poisoned me?"

Sorry kids, this isn't the MTV generation version I'm talking about, "House on Haunted Hill." The original version of this movie is a wonderful campy old horror movie that deserves to be a stormy-night treat for everyone who has a bowl and some popcorn.

Our director/producer, William Castle, has taken a lot of criticism over this film and several of his others. Castle was a showman who wanted to fill the seats and put on a show, both of which he did very well. Vincent Price, the prince of horror movies, invites five diverse people to stay a night in his haunted house, and if they live they get \$10,000. Back in the day, that was a considerable sum of money, it was like \$1 million dollars! Each guest is given a little coffin with a gun in it, evidently in this movie guns present a threat to un-dead spirits! Let the fun begin!

The fun begins as we see organs playing by themselves, two really ugly old women screaming hysterically, levitating skeletons, moving corpses,

secret passageways and what no house would be complete without... A pit of acid!

This movie is worth a once-over and I think that FSC students will find a hidden treasure in other Castle films, such as "The Tingler" which would make for a good half of a double feature.



Poetry Corner

My Garden

Beauty grows from an unknown substance
Twisting and changing as it grows
And always what is known is gone
Hope in the shape of a garden
Now strewn with weeds
Do I dare touch it?
Tell my why and how you became
this ravaged place
Ransacked hopes
The dirt of bittersweet dreams
The memories of the heated sun
And I'm back in those summer
days and with the hope
That a garden full of beauty
Would transform this little piece of
earth into a small paradise
Little paradise now I think you
have turned into a type of purgato-

ry

And it seems now I'll wait for you
to fill with flowers

Then all is still
My arm clings to the light switch
As I fall into the darkness
And into the warmth of sleep
Where dim embers of coal glimmer still
My dreams quivering in their pale light
Heat comes to my eyes
I awaken and all is quiet
All is still
But then I hear my own words
Speaking nonsense to each other
In their own insanity they kill each other
Then all is quiet, then all is still

School stories by Adanna Agbo

Adanna Agbo is a featured writer for The Point. She writes fictional stories about "real-life" situations from different perspectives than the usual. All characters in these stories are fictional, and not meant to resemble any real persons, living or dead.

AnneMarie Donahue,
editor-in-chief

The other guy's not forgotten

Women always complain it's so hard to find the right man. They believe that all the good guys are either in prison, taken by someone else, or gay.

Some of these complaints, I believe, are also the same for men. Where are all the good women, is it just me or is the world running out of women, good women?

I'm a very traditional guy, I believe that a man should have a woman; someone to share his feelings and thoughts with. I'm back on my search, a search that has been long and vigorous.

Being a normal guy, I've had my share of relationships. Being me, most of my relationships didn't last long. Something was always missing, and I just couldn't see myself going out with most of those girls for a long period. I needed someone to complement me, to fill in the gaps in my life. I wanted

someone I'd be compatible with, someone who would make me laugh and cry out with joy at the same time.

I found that person, and in her I found everything I was looking for in a girl. She made me laugh, she understood me, and she was there for me. The only problem was that she already had a boyfriend.

Her boyfriend was far away, so I used that as an opportunity to create something between us. It was around midnight one night; she was in my room because we had studied together. We were watching TV, when I started rubbing her back, then her shoulders, and then her whole body. Before either of us could think straight enough to object, we started kissing and caressing

The other guy
continued on page 9

Mr. Free Advice

Because advice is always worth the price you paid for it!

This column is a parody and not to be taken seriously. On a personal note, please be aware that you should not ask the advice of anyone who works for The Point, we're not good people.

"Joining that cult was the best thing I ever did!"

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I just wanted to tell all the students of Fitchburg State College about a wonderful, life-affirming new club that I just joined. When I first arrived at FSC I didn't feel too sure about my decision! My roommate was older and already had friends. I didn't really like the classes that I thought I would love, and there wasn't anything I was into. Then I met these people hanging out behind the Conlon Building one night chanting something weird. At first I thought they were total weirdos and I started to leave, but they were so friendly and they encouraged me to stay. Well am I glad I did, joining that cult was the best thing I ever did! I just hope that message reaches all those other students looking to join up in team activities like me!

Sister Alberta in Aubuchon

Dear Sister,

Yeah, I love having my head shaved and being forced to wear long robes. Not to mention hanging out with a bunch of total freaks howling at the moon every Tuesday night is a total blast! This is why I decided not to go into therapy. You meet too many sickos!

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I just graduated from college and I got a great education. I have a master's degree in history and I graduated at the top of my class. Unfortunately the only job I can get is flipping burgers and asking, "You want fries with that?" I have student loans to start paying back. I thought maybe I could work for the paper as a research analyst or something. What kind of package do you offer?

Hopeless History Major

Dear Hopeless,

Get real! There are no paid positions on the Point! You graduated at the "top of your class," you claim, yet with a bachelor's degree the best you can get is a job "flipping burgers"? This just

-AnneMarie Donahue, editor-in-chief
don't add up right. I only have one question: How much crack do you smoke exactly?

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I've been living up at college now for some time and I enjoy my freedom. It's like I'm an adult, but when I go to spend time with my parents they treat me like I'm a little kid or something. I'm 18 now and if I want to go out to all night keggers and sleep with guys I meet in a bar I have every right to. I don't know what their problem is. What do you think I should tell them to get them off of my back?

Mature in Mara

Dear Mature,

You are absolutely correct, you have every right to do whatever you want now that you're 18. Smoke, drink, party, have unprotected sex with multiple partners and pay for your education all by yourself.... Uh oh, forgot about that, didn't you? Yup, your parents invested in you when they sent you off to college so buck up and take it you little ingrate. Or else there's always burgers that need flippin'!

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

My boyfriend and I have been together for a long time, but lately our passion has seemed to run out. I'm bored with lots of things that used to turn me on about him. I still love him very much and I want him to be with me always, but I can't shake this feeling that I'm losing out on greater passion with another man. Could you tell me what the future holds?

Curious in Conlon

Dear Curious,

I have looked into my crystal ball and it has a very important message for you: Smarten up! I am not a psychic! My personal advice is that you dump this guy immediately and hit the bar scene. Then you will know the hell of being single in this day and age. The only place to meet anyone is the Internet and the only people you meet on it are 300-pound computer geeks and psychopaths! Stay with the guy and hope that he doesn't get bored with you!

Road rage rears ugly head

By Vanessa Manni

As I left the horrible images of World War I trenches inside the toasty recesses of Thompson Hall last night, I had no sooner abandoned the thoughts of my War and Peace class than I was ironically forced to witness a similarly haunting scene in the parking lot of Fitchburg State College.

Sounds of yelling wafted toward me in the midst of the crosswalk. The people around me were unfazed by the argument that had erupted and walked on by, as if it were a common occurrence for an adult to get out of his car to yell at adolescent neighborhood children as if they were the scum of the earth.

The middle-aged man was parked at the stop sign on North Street, his face

angry and contorted with hatred, yelling obscenities at the boys, who laughed and taunted him.

He finally spat venomously, "I SHOULD HAVE F**KING HIT YOU!" and slithered into his vehicle, driving off for his next potential victim.

The tone of his voice still lingers in my head hours later.

What have things come to when a boy on his bike, maybe riding carelessly (I don't know because I didn't see), could be enough to instill so much hatred in another person, so much so that the person wishes the boy were dead or hurt?

Even had the boy been careless or provoked the driver, who is the adult and who is the child?

I cringed while getting into my car last night knowing that man was also on

the road and that there are millions like him out there, waiting for the least little thing to ruin our day and threaten your life.



Students don't always go by the book

continued from cover

afford the required books.) I understand that there is emergency money for books- I have used this privilege before.

But I had a problem when I did "the right thing," and bought my books. Plain and simple, I did not constructively use any of them. Thus, I "wasted" emergency money for a situation that did not turn out to be an emergency, or even beneficial.

I know there are a lot of students out there who may agree with me (and I thank you), and some who may think I am wasting my words. But this is a subject I believe should be addressed. Who truly does not mind buying overpriced texts just to get nothing back? (When a text is not even utilized, you truly do get nothing.)

Sounds like a big conspiracy to me.

'Hollow' wakes up fans

continued from page 7

plays a relatively attractive Ichabod Crane. Christina Ricci plays Katrina Van Tussle, the lady love. The love story actually takes away from the movie in some points, but it's not so bad that it can't be overlooked. Both Depp and Ricci play their roles wonderfully, but the real star of the show is Walken.

Walken plays the horseman with a sort of Darth Vader air. This character seemed unstoppable and evil, which made him all the scarier. The fighting looks like something from a Conan movie.

Working with Danny Elfman for music, the tone is set beautifully and worked with the sets and lighting to create the ultimate creepy feel! Since Elfman worked on the music you will definitely not want to go to your local theater with its \$5 speakers!

Unlike many retells of this tale, the headless horseman murders are not done solely because somebody "hurt his precious feelings." There is a beautifully scripted reason as to why and whom he kills and it's revealed in good time. Be patient waiting for this movie, its release date is almost a month away. Currently, Internet Movie Data Base has this movie listed as in post-production where it is going through a final edit, but it's definitely worth the wait.

From a distance, the other guy pulls her away

continued from page 8

each other. Suddenly she pushed me off, picked her things and ran off before I could stop her. That night, I thought a lot about her, about how much and how bad I wanted her to be mine.

She avoided me for the next three days, but she finally called me. She said we needed to talk. She came over that night, and as she tried to talk, I had my face close to hers, and once again, what was an omen to her but a blessing to me happened. The attraction was so strong that I wanted to have her there and then. As my hormones were driving wild, I reached down to loosen my belt. This time, she ran out without even looking back. The next day after classes, I saw a note for me under my door. It was from her, she said she was

sorry for leading me on. She explained that she loved her boyfriend very much, and she didn't want to do anything to jeopardize that. She also claimed she didn't want to ruin our friendship. She said a lot of other things in that note, and I was greatly disappointed. I guess something inside of me had been hoping she'd leave her boyfriend for me. Sometimes I wished her boyfriend would leave her, and she'd run to me. It never happened.

I'm back on track now, searching for the right one, someone like her that won't leave me. In my heart, I wish her the best.

Even though she chose her boyfriend over me, I cherish those few heated moments we had together.

PATS,

continued from back cover

flipped a 5-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Linton with 1:35 left to pull out another come from behind win in Baltimore, and pulled the bills to 5 and 3.

Tennessee has become a very good team. Playing the undefeated Rams, who up to this weekend was the best team in the NFL. They stand at 6 and 1, with a great young offense, and what appears to be a good enough defense.

The Colts maybe the surprise team of the millennium. If they continue to improve is there a limit to the Payton Manning, Edgerrin James, Marvin Harrison trio, because I don't see it. Beating up the Cowboys Sunday afternoon really showed how much they are growing together.

New England has really dedicated itself to running the ball. The past two weeks, they have gained 122 yard last week, and an astounding 143 yard this week against the Cardinals. The defense seems to get better every week, and really abused the Cards Sunday. I know I'm the eternal Patriots optimist, but is there any team in the AFC that you think the Pats should really be scared of, because I just don't see it.

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Celtics court victory

by Thomas Mahoney

After a long summer, and the start of a warm fall, it's finally basketball time. The Celtics' 1999-2000 season will start this Tuesday against Toronto. Many predictions have your mighty Celtics staying at the bottom.. I would like to disagree.

The Celtics' biggest problem has been that the team is too young. Well, this season they are a year older, plus they traded Ron Mercer for two veterans: Eric Williams. and the fierce Danny Fortson.

Fortson was a steal. His size, strength and rebounding will add attitude and desire to this young team. Walker has the talent to be great, and what appears to be the desire. Many people forget that when Larry Bird first joined this team as a rookie he was 23, the same age as Walker is now. As soon as Fortson is healthy, the two of them well create a lot of problems for other teams inside, and I havn't even gotten to Paul Pierce yet.

As good as Walker is, Pierce may be better. A switch to shooting-guard should help his already well-rounded

game. I'd like to see him drive to the hole a little more, but he is capable of a triple-double on any given night.

The strange part is most so-called experts are dismissing the Celtics and predicting them to finish last, or next to last. Is it just me, or does the Atlantic Division seem to have a lot of holes? I not saying we can win the Atlantic, but it sure seems to me there is an opening.

Orlando traded half their team away in a bold effort to dominate the lottery. I'd give you a starting five, but I don't know who could start for this team.

Miami has gone from veteran leadership to four-bad knees, and Pat Riley. Can Alonzo Morning and Tim Hardaway hold up this season again?

New York is done. Philadelphia is a better team then the Knicks, but they will only go so far as the NBA's leading scorer, Allen Iverson's passes can carry them. And he does seem to like to share the wealth, but man is he quick!

New Jersey Stephon Marbury and Keith Van Horn should be perennial all-stars, and they may have just enough

CELTICS,
contiuned on page 2

New England 6-2 at midseason

by Thomas Mahoney

Well, here we are at the midpoint of the season. The Patriots are 6 and 2, after beating the Cardinals. Sunday's win may not have been a study in aesthetics, but they ran the ball 43 times, and played physical football, showing a determination that seemed to be lacking earlier. The question left is, "Are they good enough to go all the way?"

People talk about reversing the Red Sox curse, but how about the retirement of the Patriots curse? John Elway never lost to the Patriots in his career, which includes preseason, regular season, and playoffs. Now that he's gone the Pats have already beaten the Broncos for the first time since the 1970s. So who is left as the top teams in the AFC: Jacksonville, Miami, Buffalo, Tennessee, the Colts. Do any of them scare you?

Jacksonville is the most complete team left. They may have the best combination of running and passing games in the league. With both Fred Taylor and Mark Brunell set to return this week, this will be the first time all the projected starters are in the lineup together. The defense has always been the Jaguars' Achilles heel, but free

agent acquisitions of Carnell Lake and Gary Walker, plus the drafting of Fernando Bryant, Donovan Darius, and Seth Payne over the pas two seasons, has given Tom Coughlin the talent and depth of defense he's never had. I believe The Jaguars will be the toughest team to beat.

Miami's defense is speed, speed and more speed. Jimmy Johnson may need a serious reality check, but he can coach this game, and put together a team as well as any one in the league. However his Super Bowl dreams are resting on the considerably crippled knees of Dan Marino. I know Huard threw for 221 yards against Oakland on Sunday, and that win brings them to 6 and 1, but do you stay awake nights worrying about Damon Huard? The Dolphins will not be scary come play-off time.

Again Buffalo's defense can be tough, they've been one of the top rated defenses of the past five years. However just like the Patriots, an inconsistent running game could do them in. Consistently Flutie looks like magic, but falls to short to carry the struggling Buffalos. However Flutie

Pats
continued to page 8

Solution to this week's crossword puzzle (puzzle found on page 4)

P	L	E	A		C	H	A	R		D	I	N
L	I	K	E		R	A	T	E		R	O	E
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O	P	E		S	U	E	D		S	E	W	S

Falcon football team, supporters earn congratulations

Dear Point Letters Editor:

I want to gratefully acknowledge your recent letter extolling this season's Falcon football successes. You will doubtless pay tribute to this great group for their 26-20 overtime victory versus Maine Maritime Academy, but I frankly want to personally congratulate this great aggregation of team members, coaches, A.D. staff, cheerleaders, support staff, concession crew, fans, in short a delightfully rejuvenatec football emphasis and fascination at FSC. I think I echo the sentiments of many campus family and Greater Fitchburg neighbors, who get a tremendous kick out of FSC's obviously exciting footbal atmosphere. I have attended many FSC football games in the last 20 years, and I am having more fun enjoying the daring exploits and winning ways of this 1999 FSC football season than ever before. I encourage any and all embers of our FSC campus family to heed the beckoning FALCON and to assemble at Elliot Field or St.Bernard's Field, Saturday, Nov. 13 for the wrap-up of the FSC FALCONS FOOTBALL TEAM's greatest season ever. Show your appreciation. They deserve your support!

Jerry Greene, Campus Library